

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 412:

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Layperson Training in CPR and Automated
2 External Defibrillators; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, heart disease is a leading cause of death in Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival drops 10 percent for every minute
5 that passes before his or her heart is returned to normal rhythm; and

6 WHEREAS, because most cardiac arrest victims are initially in ventricular fibrillation, and
7 the only treatment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation, prompt access to defibrillation
8 to return the heart to normal rhythm is essential; and

9 WHEREAS, lifesaving technology, the automated external defibrillator, has been developed
10 to allow trained lay rescuers to respond to cardiac arrest by using this simple device to shock
11 the heart into normal rhythm; and

12 WHEREAS, those people who are likely to be first on the scene of a cardiac arrest situation
13 in many communities, particularly smaller and rural communities, lack sufficient numbers
14 of automated external defibrillators to respond to cardiac arrest in a timely manner; and

15 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association estimates that many deaths could be prevented
16 each year if defibrillators were more widely available; and

17 WHEREAS, increasingly more government entities and private businesses are procuring and
18 making available automated external defibrillators for use by laypersons when an emergency
19 occurs, and because of the prevalence of these defibrillators, it has been encouraged that all
20 able persons obtain training on their use; and

1 WHEREAS, a study should be conducted to identify ways to encourage laypersons to receive
2 training and certification in the use of automated external defibrillators in this state,
3 including, but not limited to, possible mandatory courses or portions of courses in other
4 classes, such as health, in the use of automated external defibrillators in public high schools,
5 inclusion of training in defibrillators in required driver's education courses, reduction in rates
6 in automobile insurance, reduction of fees in obtaining a driver's license, and other possible
7 ideas.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 there is created the House Study Committee on Layperson Training in CPR and Automated
10 External Defibrillators to be composed of three members of the House of Representatives to
11 be appointed by the Speaker. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as
12 chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
14 appoint an advisory panel to assist the members of the committee. The advisory panel shall
15 consist of seven members as follows: one representative from the Medical Association of
16 Georgia, one representative from the Georgia Hospital Association, one representative from
17 the Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services; and one representative each from
18 the Department of Education, Department of Human Resources, Department of Community
19 Health, and Department of Driver Services.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
21 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
22 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
23 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
24 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
25 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
26 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
27 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days. Members of
28 the advisory panel shall receive no compensation for their services to the committee and shall
29 not be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as
30 advisers to the committee. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution
31 shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event that
32 the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations for proposed legislation,
33 such report shall be made no later than December 31, 2007. The committee shall stand
34 abolished on December 31, 2007.